

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14034 011829Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11  
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00  
OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 STR-07 /122 W  
-----035122 022045Z /23

R 011814Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0770  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14034

PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, OECD  
SUBJECT: FRG INVITATION TO OECD AMBASSADORS  
  
REFS: (A) STATE 193042  
(B) BONN 6170  
(C) PARIS 23620

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S QUESTION IN REF A,  
THE FRENCH BONN GROUP REP (RICHARD) SAYS THAT THE FRENCH  
AMBASSADOR WAS INVITED TO BERLIN LAST YEAR BUT COULD  
NOT ATTEND FOR PERSONAL REASONS. NEITHER HE NOR THE  
UK BONN GROUP REP (HARPER) HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER  
PRIOR INVITATIONS TO THEIR AMBASSADORS TO THE OECD.  
WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE HISTORY  
OF THE SUBJECT AND ASSUME THAT USOECD CAN OBTAIN  
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ANSWERS TO THE DEPARTMENT'S QUESTIONS.

2. FOR THE RECORD, WE DISAGREE WITH THE FRENCH POSITION  
THAT ALLIED SOVEREIGNTY IN BERLIN PRECLUDES THE  
ACCEPTANCE BY THE ALLIES OF FRG INVITATIONS TO VISIT  
BERLIN. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, SUCH INVITATIONS  
HAVE A LONG HISTORY AND THE FRG REGULARLY ARRANGES

VISITS INTER ALIA TO BERLIN FOR MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND BONN-BASED MILITARY ATTACHES AND CULTURAL ATTACHES (REF B). ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES ARE INCLUDED IN ALL OF THESE TYPES OF VISITS TO BERLIN AND US EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE ACCEPTED THEM IN THE PAST. REPORTS OF BONN GROUP DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT, INCLUDING LISTS OF THOSE INVITED, WERE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND USBER ON FEBRUARY 19, FEBRUARY 21, MARCH 8 AND JULY 12, 1978. TO FOLLOW THE FRENCH POSITION TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION WOULD PRECLUDE ANY PARTICIPATION BY ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES IN THESE TRIPS.

3. NOR IS THE LOGIC OF THE FRENCH POSITION READILY APPARENT FROM US PRACTICE ELSEWHERE. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT OTHER USG AGENCIES, USAID AND DOD FOR EXAMPLE, ARRANGE VISITS, SEMINARS, ETC. OVERSEAS TO WHICH NATIONALS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THE EVENT IS BEING HELD ARE ALSO INVITED. WE PRESUMABLY DO NOT CONSIDER THIS AN INFRINGEMENT ON THE HOST COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY. ON THE NARROW QUESTION OF WHETHER AN INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVEREIGN IS PROPER, WE SEE NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHO IS SOVEREIGN IN BERLIN AND WHO IS SOVEREIGN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

4. THERE IS OF COURSE ANOTHER REASON WHICH MIGHT PRECLUDE ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES FROM ACCEPTING AN CONFIDENTIAL

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FRG INVITATION TO BERLIN, AND THAT IS BECAUSE THE VISIT MIGHT BE POLITICALLY INOPPORTUNE. THE ALLIES AND THE FRG ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT THIS IS A VALID REASON FOR THE ALLIES TO ADVISE AGAINST A VISIT, EVENT, ETC. TAKING PLACE AT ALL AND THE SAME WOULD HOLD TRUE FOR ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES DECLINING SUCH AN INVITATION, EVEN IF THE ALLIES CHOSE NOT TO VETO THE VISIT, EVENT, ETC. FOR NON-ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES. THE MERIT OF THIS IS THAT IT ALLOWS EACH CASE TO BE JUDGED INDIVIDUALLY AND DOES NOT RESULT IN A RIGID, AND WE CONSIDER ILLOGICAL, POSITION THAT ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES CANNOT ACCEPT FRG INVITATIONS TO BERLIN.

5. SEEN FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE PROPOSED VISIT OF OECD AMBASSADORS TO BE POLITICALLY INOPPORTUNE. WE CANNOT PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD COMPLAIN, ALTHOUGH THEY APPARENTLY HAVE NOT DONE SO IN THE PAST, BUT WE DO NOT CONSIDER SUCH A VISIT TO BE INHERENTLY SO PROVOCATIVE THAT WE SHOULD OBJECT TO IT. MEEHAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INVITATIONS, AMBASSADORS  
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**Draft Date:** 01 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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